

*Department of State*

# TELEGRAM

F76

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NY: 100-1041-6261

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PAGE 01 PESHAW 00035 240741Z  
ACTION NEA-11

INFO OCT-01 EUR-12 ADS-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PH-05 H-01  
INR-10 L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-01 SP-02 SS-15  
ICA-11 OMB-01 TRSE-00 IO-14 ACDA-12 SMS-01 SES-02  
SPH-01 SSM-03 HA-05 SY-05 SYE-00 OCT-02 AID-07  
/129 N

-----015244 240748Z /17

P 240400Z JAN 80  
FM AMCONSUL PESHAWAR  
TO SECSTATE WASHDC PRIORITY 589  
INFO AMEMBASSY KABUL  
AMEMBASSY ISLAMABAD  
AMEMBASSY MOSCOW

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E.O. 12065: NA  
TAGS: PINS, PEPR, AF, UR  
SUBJECT: RUSSIANS IN AFGHANISTAN

1. IN THE EVENT THAT ADDRESSEES HAVE NOT ALREADY LEARNED OF INCIDENT FROM FOREIGN MEDIA, I PASS ON STORY RECENTLY GARNERED FROM PETER NIESWAND OF OBSERVER AND JEFF HERRIOT OF RADIO AUSTRALIA. ON JAN. 13, EIGHT TO TEN RUSSIAN SOLDIERS LOOTED SUM OF MONEY, OTHER GOODS, FROM AFGHAN DRIVER OF PAIR'S TAXI NEAR SALANG TUNNEL. JOURNALISTS WERE FOLLOWING IN RECENT FOOTSTEPS OF COLLEAGUES BY ATTEMPTING LOOK AT TUNNEL AREA BUT STOPPED AT JABALOSSARAI CHECK-POINT, SOUTH OF TUNNEL. RUSSIANS, ALL EUROPEANS, OPENLY TOOK EQUIVALENT OF \$50, PLUS THREE TAPE CASSETTES FROM DRIVER, PLUS TWO MAPS FROM WRITERS. THEN, TAXI ORDERED BACK TO KABUL.

2. SUBSEQUENTLY, HERRIOT HAD OCCASION TO ENTER MINISTRY OF INTERIOR, I THINK ON A VISA MATTER. OUTSIDE GUARDS

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WERE ALL AFGHAN SOLDIERS, SUPPORTED BY SIX LIGHT TANKS.

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DEPARTMENT OF STATE A/CDC/MR  
REVIEWED by A. Kelly Date 5/21/90

( ) RELEASE  
( ) EXISTE  
( ) DENY  
( ) Non-responsive info.

( ) CLASSIFY as \_\_\_\_\_ authority (0)  
( ) DOWNGRADE TO ( ) Sec ( ) C. OADR..

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INSIDE, HOWEVER, HERRIOT SAW ABOUT 50 RUSSIAN SOLDIERS,  
ARMED WITH AK-47S AND SIDE ARMS, AND NO AFGHAN SOLDIERS.  
ALL RUSSIANS APPEARED TO BE EUROPEANS.  
ARCHARD

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